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E & P.H (1948) Department

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 4135

Dated 6-12-48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Establishment - Public Health - Maternity and Child Welfare - Resolutions of the Conference of Women Medical Officers - Orders passed.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Abstract.

Establishment - Public Health - Maternity and Child Welfare - Resolutions of the Conference of Women Medical Officers - Orders. passed.

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EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

G.O. Ms. No. 4135, Public Health. Dated the 6th December 1948.

Read:-

From the Director of Public Health, No. R.6022/ 1/M/47 dated 29.1.1947.
From the Director of Public Health, No. R.6022/ 2/M/47 dated 12.3.1947.
From the Surgeon-General, U.O. Ref. 76830/1-P.W. dated 13.9.1947.

Order:-

A conference of the Women Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) of this Province was held in Madras on the 16th and 17th December 1946 and it passed certain resolutions which are shown in the Appendix to this order.

2. Action on the part of Government is necessary only on some of these resolutions and in consultation with the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras and the Director of Public Health they proceed to pass the following orders on them:-

(i) Resolution 3:- The proposals submitted by the Director of Public Health for the provincialisation of the services of Women Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) require revision. Revised proposals in the matter have been called for separately and orders will be passed on them in due course.

(ii) Resolutions 4 and 5:- The Director of Public Health is requested to commend these resolutions to the Corporation of Madras for adoption.

(iii) Resolutions 6,26,32 and 39:- The scales of pay of Health Visitors and midwives have already been revised, Orders have since been issued in G.O. No. 991, Public Health, dated 25.3.1948 regarding the fixation of pay of Women Medical Officer's in the revised scale and the enhancement of conveyance allowances for them.

(iv) Resolution 7:- Some local authorities have already employed Ist grade Women Medical Officer's for supervision of their Maternity and Child Welfare work. If the Director of Public Health considers that any others should also employ Women Medical Officer's of Ist grade he may obtain proposals from them and submit them to Government for orders.

(v) Resolution 8:- The Director of Public Health considers that it will be enough if departmental instructions are issued in the matter when necessary. The Government agree with them.

(vi) Resolution 9 and 11:- The standards proposed under the Post-war Plan Schemes No. 92 and No. 99 are:-

One Women Medical Officer ..... For a group centre or for a population of 60,000 to 72,000.

One Health Visitor and Two Midwives.	For a primary centre serving a population of 10,000 to 20,000 .

These may be commended to the local bodies for adoption wherever possible. The Director of Public Health is requested to take necessary action in the matter.

(vii) Resolution 12:- The Government agree with the Surgeon-General that the suggestion contained in this resolution may be implemented in the combined service (preventive and curative) proposed to be given under the Public Welfare Schemes No. 92 and 99. The Director of Public Health is requested to submit necessary proposals in the matter in consultation with the Surgeon-General.

(viii) Resolution 13:- The Government have already undertaken to give a 50% grant to such of those local bodies as are not in a position to meet 75% of the expenditure on the Maternity and Child Welfare centres. They have decided that this arrangement should continue.

(ix) Resolution 14:- The Director of Public Health has suggested that instructions may be issued to the effect that the Health Officers should, as far as possible, consult the Women Medical Officer in making appointments, transfers, etc. of the other Maternity and Child Welfare staff and in taking disciplinary action against them and that they women medical officer may be empowered to grant casual leave to the other staff reporting the matter to the Health Officer, and that she may also be empowered to assign them for their daily duties. The Government agree with this suggestion of the Director. He is requested to issue instructions accordingly.

(x) Resolution 15:- This resolution may be commended to the local bodies. They may employ compounders in their Maternity and Child Welfare centres if found absolutely necessary after obtaining the sanction of the competent authority. The Director of Public Health is requested to take necessary action in the matter.

(xi) Resolutions 17,20,40,53,54 and 57:- The suggestions contained in these resolutions may be commended to the local bodies for adoption wherever possible. The Director of Public Health is requested to take necessary action in the matter.

(xii) Resolution No. 18:- The Surgeon-General has stated that abnormal and difficult labour cases may be sent to maternity hospitals by the staff of Maternity and Child Welfare centres for treatment. He is requested to issue necessary instructions in the matter.

(xiii) Resolution 21:- The Director of Public Health has stated that necessary instructions have been issued to the Health Officers not to divert the women medical officers for other duties.

(xiv) Resolution 22:- The Government have deferred for the present a comprehensive scheme for school medical service. When this scheme is taken up again the suggestion conveyed in the resolution will be considered.

(xv) Resolution 23:- Orders have since been issued

revising the post-graduate courses in Maternity and Child Welfare so as to include instruction in Nutrition and Dietitics.

(xvi) Resolution 24:- The Govennment consider that Conferences may be held as and when necessary after obtaining previous sanction.

(xvii) Resolution 25:- The Government have already taken action under their P.W. Schemes, for training more health visitors;

(xviii) Resolution 28:- The Director of Public Health will issue necessary departmental instructions regarding the supervision by Women Medical Officers of the work of the Health Visitors.

(xix) Resolution 29:- Provision has been made in the Post War Scheme for the trainig of midwives on payment of stipends.

(xx) Resolution 30:- The proposals of the Director of Public Health for revising the qualifications of candidates for admission into the Health Visitors' Course, are separately under consideration.

(xxi) Resolution 31:-Midwives are even now given refresher courses wherever necessary.

(xxii) Resolution 33:- The Director of Public Health will issue necessary departmental instructions in the matter.

(Xxiii) Resolutions 34,48,50,51 and 52:- The Government have approved revised type designs for maternity homes and child welfare centres with quarters for the staff.

(xxiv) Resolution 35:- The Government consider that no change of designation of midwives is necessary.

(xxv) Resolution 36:- The Director of Public Health has suggested that senior midwives in child welfare schemes may be promoted as health visitors if they are efficient and suitable. The Government have no objection provided that midwives are qualified. The Director of Public Health is requested to submit necessary proposals for amending the Public Health Establishments (Local authorities) Regulations.

(xxvi) Resolution 37:- The Director of Public Health has stated that the request contained in the resolution will be examined by him in consultation with the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts and that necessary proposals would be submitted to the Government in due course. He is requested to expedite the proposals referred to.

(xxvii) Resolution 38:- The Director of Public Health recommends that the number of ayahs for a maternity home may be fixed as three. He is requested to commend this to local bodies for adoption.

(xxviii) Resolution 47:- This matter is under separate consideration and orders will be issued in due course.

(xxix) Resolution 55:- The Government agree with the Director of Public Health that a Women Medical Officer should be given either a peon or a woman attendant and that there is no need for both.

(xxx) Resolution 56:- The Director of Public Health will issue departmental instructions in the matter.

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26.11.48.

To

The Director of Public Health, Madras.
The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras through the Mayor.

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APPENDIX

Resolution 1:- It was resolved that an Association of Woman Medical Officers N.C. 30/Maternity and Child Welfare) be formed, that Her Excellency the Hon'ble Lady Nye be requested to be its Patron, the Hon'ble Rukmani Lakshmipathy, Minister for Public Health, Vice Patron and Dr. (Mrs.) L.N.V. Chinnappa, Assistant Directress of Public Health (Maternity and Child Welfare), President.

2. That an Assistant Directress of Public Health (Maternity and Child Welfare) in the Department of Public Health with provincial jurisdiction is essential for organization and development of Maternity and Child Hygience in the Province.

3. That the posts of Woman Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) under local bodies should be provincialised in two grades - Junior and Senior on the same scales of pay as for 2nd class and Ist class Health Officers respectively.

4. That the salaries of Junior Woman Medical Officer (Maternity and Child Welfare) Corporation of Madras should be of the same scale as that of Woman Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) under Government.

5. That the scale of pay sanctioned for Lady Superintendent Child Welfare Scheme of the Corporation of Madras should be appropriate to her status and in any case should not be less than that of Assistant Health Officers, Corporation of Madras.

6. That proportionate increments should be allowed for Woman Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) some of them with 14 years of service - According to G.O. No. 1675, Public Health, dated 22.6.1945 all have been a flat rate of Rs. 145/- as starting salary for the duration of the war and until further orders.

7. That there is need for the appointment of senior Woman Medical Officers as Superintendents of Child Welfare Schemes in 1st class municipalities and district boards.

8. That the distribution of milk should be undertaken under the direction of Woman Medical Officers by Health Visitors appointed for the purpose.

9. That in an area strength of staff of Woman Medical Officers, Health Visitors and Maternity Nurses and the number of centres should be fixed with reference to population at the rate of Woman Medical Officer, 2 Health Visitors and 8 midwives per 50,000 population a similar principle being already followed in regard to other public establishments, and that there should be statutory provision for the appointment of such staff under section . . . . . of Madras Public Health Act.

10. That more use should be made of Cinema Films in Health Education.

11. That no child welfare centre should be staffed with less than 3 midwives.

12. That arrangements for taking blood for khan and wasserman test free of cost should be made in Centres where Woman

Medical Officers are employed, such cases should be treated by Government or Municipal Hospitals concerned free of charges for those with an income below Rs. 100/- per mensem.

13. That the Government grant for Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme should be increased to 50% of cost of scheme instead of 25% as at present in order that the rate of progress may be accelerated.

14. That appointments, transfers and disciplinary action against Maternity and Child Welfare staff should be done by Health Officers in consultation with the Woman Medical Officers.

15. That a trained compounder should be appointed wherever a Maternity Home is established.

16. That Woman Medical Officers placed in additional charge of work under neighbouring local bodies should be given adequate allowances to cover expenses (travelling allowance and Halting allowances).

17. That suitable financial provision should be made for equipment for play centres and mother's classes in all child welfare centres.

18. That this conference appeals to the authorities of maternity hospitals to co-operate in the treatment of abnormal and difficult cases sent to them, often with great difficulty by the staff of Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes.

19. That periodical local conference of the Maternity and Child Welfare staff should be held by the Woman Medical Officer in order that details relating to work may be discussed and experience shared.

20. That Nursery Schools should be opened under the Government and all local bodies and the care and training of the pre- school child receive greater attention.

21. That the duties of Woman Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) should be restricted to those enumerated in the circular of Director of Public Health, D.No. 2/M/45 dated 25.2.1936 and they should not be called upon to carryout duties in connection with the control of epidemics or in other medical institutions.

22. That periodical Medical examination of pupils in Girls' School should be undertaken and staff appointed for the purpose.

23. That the post-graduate course in Maternity and Child Welfare prescribed for Woman Medical Officer should include a course in Nutrition and dietitics.

24. That in order that Maternity and Child Welfare work may progress it is necessary that Woman Medical Officers should meet and discuss the various problems relating to their work. It is therefore proposed that a conference of Woman Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) should be convened once in two years.

25. That there is urgent need for Health Visitors for work among pre-school children.

26. That scales of pay of Health Visitors should be revised from Rs. 75/- to Rs. 100/-.

27. That Conveyance allowance of Health Visitors should be enhanced.

Medic [illegible] over [illegible] under [illegible] Order [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

28. That Woman Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) should effect close supervision and guide the work of Health Visitors.

29. That in order that a sufficient number of candidates may be available for training as Health Visitors, it is urged that number of stipends to midwifery pupils should be considerably increased by Government and other authorities..

30. That it is essential that a candidate for Health Visitors training should in addition to her midwifery qualification have practical experience of midwifery in approved child welfare centres.

31. That it is important that periodical refresher courses be arranged for midwives at the leading Maternity Hospitals in the Province, that in doing such courses the midwives should be assisted by the Hospital authorities to study the latest methods and advances in the practice of midwivery that such a refresher course should be undergone once in every five years.

32. That in order to attract a larger number of women into the profession, the present scales of pay of Rs. 25-35 offered to midwives should be considerably increased, and the salary of midwives be fixed at Rs. 75/- to Rs. 100/- per mensem.

33. That midwives should not be required to do the duties of vaccinators.

34. That adequate residential quarters should be provided to midwives near the child welfare centres.

35. That midwives in child welfare schemes be designated as 'Maternity Nurses'.

36. That senior midwives in child welfare schemes be selected for appointment as Health Visitors.

37. That the amount of contribution to Provident Fund by Maternity and Child Welfare staff under local authorities service should be increased to two annas in the rupee.

38. That a sufficient number of Ayahs should be appointed in child welfare centres and maternity homes, that the minimum number of Ayahs in a Maternity ~~an~~ home should be three.

39. That present scales of conveyance allowance granted to Woman Medical Officers be reconsidered and adequately enhanced to cover actual expenses.

40. That an uniform allowance of Rs. 50/- per year should be granted to Health Visitors and Midwives.

41. That service conditions of menials (i.e.) Ayahs, Watchman and gardeners should be improved and they be permitted to join Provident Fund.

42. That Government grant for Maternity and Child Welfare work should be utilised for further improvement and development of work.

43. That the prevention and treatment of pueperal sepsis - discussion.

44. That routine treatment of ante-natal cases, attending the centres to be given Shark Liver Oil, Calcium, Iron and treatment for worms - discussion.

45. Vitamin deficiency diseases occurring in pregnant mothers - discussion.

46. The desirability of enacting legislation against the practice of unqualified midwives - discussion.

47. It was resolved that a resident matron with general nursing training should be appointed in every maternity home having more than six beds.

48. That a maternity home with atleast four beds should be constructed and attached to every child welfare centre and arrangements made for diet, clothing to patients for ten days atleast.

49. That furniture, equipment and linen provided for maternity homes should be adequate and according to standards prescribed by the Director of Public Health.

50. That quarters for staff should be provided at every centre.

51. That buildings for child welfare centres should be constructed according to type design plans approved by Director of Public Health.

52. That buildings for maternity homes should be according to type design approved by the Director of Public Health.

53. That a watchman be appointed at every centre.

54. That official Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes shoul enlist the support of voluntary organisations particularly Women's organisation for the conduct of food and milk supply depots, crehes, orphanages, rescue homes, arrangements for home helps and all other such ancillary institutions and activities.

55. That woman attendants to Woman Medical Officers be appointed in addition to their peons.

56. That a clerk be appointed to work in the office of the officer directly under the Woman Medical Officer to facilitate the disposal of their work.

57. That separate office rooms be provided for Woman Medic Officers in the District Board Office and Municipal Offices/~~at~~ at present they had to sit with the clerks or share a table wit a man officer.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Education and Public Health Department.

U.O. Note No. 55665-46-2/F.P.H. dated 6th December 1948.

Sub:- Establishment - Public Health - Provincialisation of the services of the Women Medical Officers under local bodies.

Ref:- From the Director of Public Health, Madras, R.No. 15929/1/E1/46 dated 12.3.1946.
From the Director of Public Health, Madras, R.No. 51741/2M/46 dated 20.9.1946.
From the Director of Public Health, Madras, R.No. 6022/2M/47 dated 12.3.1947.

Extracts of the Secretariat notes regardi
Resolution 3 of the resolutions passed at the Conference

of the Women Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) are forwarded to the Director of Public Health. The attention of the Director of Public Health is in this connection, invited to para 2(i) of G.O. No. 4135, Public Health, dated 6.12.1948 and he is requested to work out a fresh the probable cost to Government and other details connected with the scheme of provincialisation of Women Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) bearing in mind the suggestions contained in the extracts enclosed and submit to Government as quaickly as possible revised and complete proposals in the matter, after ascertaining the views of the local authorities thereon.

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To

The Director of Public Health, Madras.

/True copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

- k.y.s. 26.6.